Agricultural Reforms

4642. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to push up farm output, Government have approved a slew of proposals like agriculture reforms, a minimum buffer stock quantum, national jute policy and rubber plantation scheme;

(b) if so, whether, according to new reforms, Government hiked minimum buffer stocks for rice and wheat;

(c) whether Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also approved a Centrally sponsored scheme, support to State Extension Reforms, at a cost of Rs. 69.28 crores for this fiscal year and Rs.226.07 crore for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, to what extent these schemes would improve farm output in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken several measures to introduce reforms in agriculture sector especially in the field of agricultural extension, agricultural markets and post harvest technology. The Government has also prescribed revised buffer stock norms for rice and wheat effective from April, 2005 till the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The comparative figures are given below:—

A: NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN AND UPTO THIRD ANNUAL PLAN UNDER TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

(in lakh tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	118	40	158
1st July	100	143	243
1st October	65	116	181
1st January	84	84	168

B: TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (APRIL, 2005 TO MARCH, 2007)

(in lakh tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	122	40	162
1st July	98	171	269
1st October	52	110	162
1st January	118	82	200

However, in so far as national jute policy and rubber plantation scheme are concerned, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Scheme titled "Support to State Extension Reforms" is envisaged to contribute towards improving farm output by way of promoting decentralized and demand driven institutional set up at district and sub-district levels for technology dissemination, promotion of extension delivery to farmers through a range of extension service providers, encouraging greater coverage of women functionaries under different activities etc.

Indian Farmers Alliance

4643. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian farmers alliance comprising representative bodies, covering virtually all agricultural commodities with economic value, is expected to become a reality by the end of April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether this new apex organization would be on the lines of the CII and its headquarters in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the main functions of this new apex body and to what extent it would be helpful to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As observed in the press, the Confederation of Indian Farmers' Association (CIFA) is reported to have been conceived on the lines of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Its objective is to